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The Activity of Fishing Vessels, 13 m.o.l. and Over in 1980.

(ACTIVITETEN TIL FISKEFARTOYER 13 M.L.L. OG OVER 1980)

The Budget Committee for Fishing Industry.

Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, Bergen.

Reports and Notices, No. 8, 1981.

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FOREWORD

This report on the activity of fishing vessels in the size range 13 m.o.l. and above is based on data collected by local fisheries officials (fisheries guidance councellors, fisheries boards) in connection with the studies of vessels of this size carried out by the Budget Committee for the Fishing Industry in November 1980.

The report is prepared by Thor B. Melhus and approved by the Budget Committee.

Bergen, December 1981.

Per L. Mietle

Gunnar Nybo

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Budget Committee for the Fishing Industry

Studies on the Operation of fishing vessels of 13 m.o.l. and over.

1. Introduction

Every second year the Budget Committee for the Fishing Industry carries out studies on the fishing activities of all vessels 13 m.o.l. and over that are listed in the "Registry of Norwegian fishing vessels". These studies have been carried out since 1968. From 1968 to and including 1978, the studies included vessels of 40 feet registered length and over, but from 1980 the size limit was changed to 13 m longest (overall) length. This means that data from 1980 are not completely comparable with earlier year's data. Individual data that are especially affected by the changes in length definitions are commented on in the text. In general, it can be said that the changes generally have affected data from Northern Norway more than from Southern Norway due to the fleet composition there.

The unstable conditions with respect to catching and delivery opportunities, etc. generally found in the fishing industry can lead to broad changes in fishing patterns and methods from year to year. On this basis it is desirable with a complete survey of all vessels. The objectives of the survey were to find which vessels are operated the whole year and which fisheries these vessels had pursued in the year in question. All year operation is defined as 30 weeks or more active fishing in a year. For certain vessel groups

that have been subjected to extensive catch regulations and thereby have had fishing opportunities reduced, vessels with shorter fishing seasons have also been included. For sprat (brisling) fishing vessels, a lower limit of 25 weeks has been used. Large purse seiners have been classified as having had a full years operation if they have participated in at least 3 seasonal fisheries during the year. Fresh fish- salt fish- and factory trawlers have been considered to have been operated all year if they have caught their allocated cod quota.

The studies have been carried out in close cooperation with the Advisory Service for the Fishing Industry and the local fisheries boards.

From 1974, the studies were extended to also include the actual operating periods of the vessels.

The data collected as part of the study were very extensive. They contain information on most important fishing gear, fish species and fishing grounds and the time actually fished calculated in weeks for all registered vessels of 40 feet and over (1980: 13 m.o.l. and over) that have been fishing during the year. There is some variation in the quality of the data collected. Comparisons between data from this study and data in the cost- and earnings accounts received in the Budget Committee cost and earnings study, show this to be the case. However, in spite of some weaknesses it is felt that the data for 1980 should be published.

The data form the basis for the Budget Committee cost and earnings studies.